

than specifically to education, until 1997, when all lottery net revenue was redirected to the state's Foundation School Fund, which supports public education. School finance remained one of the key issues of her governorship and of those succeeding hers; the famous Robin Hood plan was launched in the 1992–1993 biennium which attempted to make school funding more equitable across school districts. Richards also sought to decentralize control over education policy to districts and individual campuses; she instituted "site-based management" to this end.

In March 2006, Richards announced that she had been diagnosed with esophageal cancer and will be seeking treatment at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. The disease has a five-year survival rate of 25 percent. Despite the statistics, Governor Richards vowed to beat her illness and battled valiantly until the very last day, when she finished her journey on earth and ascended to the heavens.

None of us who knew and loved Ann Richards will ever forget her or the way she brightened the lives of all the people she served. She was one in a million and she will be deeply missed. She will never be replaced. She was an American original. She was my friend.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME BETWEEN MARINETTE, WISCONSIN AND MENOMINEE, MICHIGAN

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the Marinette Marines from Marinette High School and the Menominee High School Maroons as they prepare for the 100th meeting of their football teams.

This celebrated gridiron contest began over a century ago when the teams first met on Thanksgiving Day in 1894. Over one hundred years later, the Marinette and Menominee High School football game is one of the oldest interstate high school football rivalries in the nation.

In true Midwestern football spirit, the historic game between Marinette and Menominee is one of the biggest events of the year for locals. While many shops and factories close for the day to enjoy the game, others decorate their storefronts with school colors. Without a doubt, the stands are filled each and every year with screaming fans—all anxious to show pride in their school and town.

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to recognize this historic football game and pay tribute to the one hundred years of tradition surrounding it. On behalf of the residents of Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District, I want to say congratulations, best of luck, and go Marines!

HONORING 2006 PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS IN THE 20TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and recognize 20 exceptional high school students in my Congressional District that were the recipients of the 2006 Presidential Freedom Scholarship. The immeasurable amount of time and effort that these students have volunteered this past year has helped countless citizens of my district, and has made New York's 20th a better place to live.

The Presidential Freedom Scholarship promotes student service and civic engagement by recognizing high school students for outstanding leadership in service to their community and neighbors. This year's recipients in my Congressional District include:

David Casazza, Paige Hanselman, Andrea E. Holmes, Chad M. Shippee, Vanessa A. Merrill, Kathleen B. Price, Renee C. O'Toole, Eric R. Reeve, Craig Millward, Nicholas Kitsock, Patrick K. Gavin-Brynes, Meghan G. Michael, Brian Driscoll, Katelin M. Meehan, Michael Fueston, Stephen R. McGrath, Philip J. Schools, Kathleen Dillon, Jaimie N. DeJager, and Vincent A. Newell.

By completing at least 100 hours of community service, these high school students are solving problems in their communities, demonstrating compassion for others, and assisting those who need support.

Our neighborhoods and communities are stronger because of volunteers and these students are truly a role model for our nation and their peers. It is my privilege to honor such selfless and dedicated members of my district. On behalf of the United States Congress, I offer my best wishes to them for continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET E. "PEARL" MILLER

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of my good friend, Margaret E. Miller, a generous and dedicated member of the community who will be greatly missed in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Miller, known to her many friends as "Pearl", was a woman of character, ability and charm, and we shall all miss her very much.

Pearl Miller was renowned for her unswerving loyalty to her friends and family. She worked to make a difference in the lives of others and everyone who met her was warmed by her friendliness and hospitality.

While establishing her reputation as a loving wife and mother, Pearl also distinguished herself as a gracious hostess and active supporter of many admirable causes. Pearl Miller was a woman of integrity, compassion, and

dedication. She carried out her responsibilities as mother, wife, hostess, campaign advisor, and friend with a grace and style, which few could match. Her loss is felt deeply throughout Delaware County, particularly in Springfield, the town she proudly called home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Pearl Miller, a dedicated friend to many in the 7th Congressional District. I wish Pearl's husband, Rutherford S. "Ford" Miller, Sr. and family my heartfelt condolences. May they find comfort in knowing that the many people she impacted deeply value her dedication and generosity and the example of her life and work.

DETROIT SHOCK CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the Detroit Shock were crowned 2006 WNBA Champions after their 80–75 victory in Game 5 against the Sacramento Monarchs. This is the Shock's second WNBA title in franchise history. The Shock also won in 2003.

The Shock proved they have "got game" by becoming one of three teams to win two championships. Houston and Los Angeles are the others. The Shock's two titles in four seasons rank them among best in league history.

Flint native Deanna Nolan was named Most Valuable Player, MVP of the 2006 WNBA Finals.

Former Detroit Piston Bill Laimbeer is the Head Coach; former Detroit Pistons Rick Mahorn is an assistant coach. Cheryl Reeve is the other assistant coach.

The Shock's regular season record was 23–11.

This is the WNBA's 10th anniversary. Women's basketball announced "We Got Next!" when the NBA Board of Governors approved the WNBA concept in 1996.

The Detroit Shock serve as examples to young women everywhere. Their accomplishments encourage others to make HERstory. They demonstrate how you can achieve success by setting goals, doing your best, and practicing teamwork.

Shock Players include Jackie Batteast, Kara Braxton, Swin Cash*, Cheryl Ford*, Kedra Holland-Corn*, Deanna Nolan*, Sabrina Palie, Plenette Pierson, Elaine Powell*, Ruth Riley*, Katie Smith, and Angelina Williams.

*Members of the 2003 and 2006 teams.

HOMELESS VETERANS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, each night nearly 200,000 veterans are homeless. They live on the streets, in alleys, in cars, in barns and under bridges. Many other veterans are just one paycheck away from being homeless.

The Government Accountability Office has just reported that the Department of Veterans Affairs' largest program to provide homeless

veterans with safe shelter has a shortfall of nearly 10,000 beds.

While VA and community providers try to do right by homeless veterans, the GAO report found that the capacity is not there to meet demand.

The situation will get worse because recent combat veterans are already homeless. Just last year, VA served nearly 600 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan in its Health Care for Homeless Veterans program.

On September 30th, the authorization for two key programs for homeless veterans—the VA Grant and Per Diem program and the Homeless Providers Technical Assistance Grant program—is set to expire.

If we fail to reauthorize these programs, we will be leaving homeless veterans behind. Homelessness is a problem that we can solve.

I urge my colleagues to enact H.R. 5960, the Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2006, which reauthorizes key programs for homeless veterans and fortifies VA's efforts to prevent and end homelessness among veterans.

HONORING BEVERLY YOUNG FOR HER COMMITMENT TO OUR WOUNDED HEROES

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a good friend whom most of us have the pleasure to know, Mrs. Bill Young, or as she prefers to be known to our wounded troops, simply "Beverly." Beverly has been recognized by the United States Marine Corps for her extraordinary commitment to our wounded troops with The Dickey Chapelle Award.

This annual award recognizes civilians who have given extraordinary contribution to the Corps. It is named in honor of the memory of the late Dickey Chapelle, an American correspondent who was killed while covering the actions of Marine infantrymen engaged in combat against enemy forces during the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, this is a well-deserved honor. Beverly and her husband, my friend and colleague, Chairman C.W. "BILL" YOUNG, of Florida, have quietly shown a level of sincere, personal compassion and devotion to our fighting men and women that is not often seen in Washington. They do it without fanfare or seeking recognition in a way that reminds me of the greatness of the American spirit.

The men and women who fight for this country have an uncanny ability to overcome extraordinary odds, both on the battlefield and in life. However, when they are lying in a hospital bed in excruciating pain from terrible, debilitating injuries, there simply is no more difficult personal challenge in this world than trying to recover, physically and mentally.

To Beverly Young, each and every one of them is her child. If she could, I have no doubt she would go into battle with them. Instead, she must content herself with fighting for them in the hospital wards and the bureaucratic halls of Washington as a volunteer.

In truth, "content" is probably the wrong word. Beverly has never been patient when

seeing to it that the troops are receiving what they need and has no qualms about making her feelings known when she sees a problem where they are concerned. She takes action in a way that immediately gets attention and results. As a former drill sergeant myself, it strikes me that she would have made a good one. Affectionately known as "The Hurricane" in the halls of Bethesda and Walter Reed hospitals, she says and does whatever it takes to see that the troops have their needs taken care of. This includes everything from chewing out staff to writing to the President. In neither case does she mince words.

One soldier who was slipping into a catatonic state from so much pain medication credits her with saving his life, literally. She did this by walking out on the experts who were discussing putting him in a psychiatric ward, running into his room and yelling in his ear that he must fight to get better or she and the Commandant would "kick his ass." The soldier promptly "snapped to," and is now back home working in Idaho.

When she got wind that the rules about soldiers receiving donations were being tightened at some bureaucratic level in the Pentagon, she shot off a letter to President Bush expressing her outrage and demanding immediate attention to correct the grievance to her beloved troops. She has impacted the lives of the troops in countless ways, from prompting major policy changes through her vocal advocacy to the generous gift of her personal time one-on-one with the wounded.

Beverly is not an occasional visitor; she is there constantly for these young men and women and their families, becoming as familiar to them as anyone else they encounter during their stay. She is fiercely protective of them. She is not formal or aloof; she insists that the troops call her Beverly. She vastly prefers spending time in the company of these wounded heroes to attending stiff official Washington functions. She will hold their hand for hours when they have no one else to be with them. She feeds them, brings them contraband, slips cash to their families from her own pocket, and hits up everyone she knows, including her own doctor, for all types of donations, whether in-kind or monetary. She LISTS to each and every one of them to find out what they need and if they don't have it, she goes and gets it, whatever it is, from whoever she has to get it from, and brings it to them. She and BILL regularly take them out to dinner.

And perhaps most importantly of all, she sits with them and tells them how much they are loved.

This, Mr. Speaker, is no small contribution to this country. I know of no one who has given more time and energy to making sure these young men and women know that someone cares about each and every one of them and that they can make it through this horrific experience of being wounded in battle. With her intense, unique, passionate style and commitment, Beverly has earned the respect of everyone she meets, military and civilian, politician and bureaucrat. I have no doubt in my mind that Beverly Young has made a tremendous impact in the lives of our service men and women. This country is a better place for her example.

So, Mr. Speaker, today I come to the People's House to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Beverly Young for her selfless service to

our brave young men and women who courageously defend this country. Congratulations, Beverly, and thank you.

A TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR FRANCIS G. TASY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Monsignor Francis G. Tasy. Monsignor Tasy brought great peace and happiness into the lives of the entire community of Kerman. A great loss to all those touched by his benevolence, he passed away on August 2, 2006.

Monsignor Francis G. Tasy was born on October 15, 1925 to Hungarian immigrants who moved to America in the first years of the 20th century. As a young boy at Our Lady of Hungary Parish in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, Msgr. Tasy aspired to lead a devout life. He attended St. Charles College in Roland Park, Maryland and went on to complete his studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Catonsville. Monsignor Tasy was ordained on May 1, 1952.

Following his time at St. Patrick's Parish in Watsonville, California; Msgr. Tasy began his work in the Valley with two years at the Naval Weapons Testing Center at China Lake, followed by one year at St. Francis in Bakersfield. In 1957, he was assigned to St. Patrick's Parish in Kerman where he spent the next 26 years. During this time Msgr. Tasy worked tirelessly to transform a small farm church into a thriving Catholic community of active and faithful individuals. Many greatly valued his love for the church and respected his devotion to its success. The Costa Family has wonderful memories with Msgr. Tasy in Kerman and his extraordinary efforts to reinvigorate that parish community. For his outstanding leadership and endless support for those in need, he will be forever remembered.

In 1983 Monsignor Tasy brought his goodwill to Reedley, California after accepting a transfer to the St. Anthony's Parish there. As he did in Kerman years earlier, Monsignor Tasy revitalized the faithful community in Reedley. Faced with a deteriorating church and fading Catholic community, he relied on his sound administration, conventional teaching and complete devotion to restore the church and the local grammar school, St. La Salle.

Monsignor Tasy was an excellent model of success, devotion, and commitment to the well-being of entire communities. He was exemplary in every way with a work ethic worthy of respect and admiration. For all that he accomplished, all that he worked tirelessly for, and all that he hoped for, we will always remember him with gratitude and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY 2006

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florida Lighthouse Day 2006, which